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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044094
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DRAFTED BY S/P:DAKORN:NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.:TH
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T STATE 044094

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WHITE HOUSE FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, US, IS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH DAYAN: SADAT, HUSSEIN, AND THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. DURING LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 16 DAYAN RAISED QUESTION, WHICH HE HAS FREQUENTLY BROUGHT UP IN RECENT WEEKS, WHETHER SADAT WOULD BE ABLE AND WILLING TO MAKE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. THE SECRETARY SAID SADAT HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE LEADERSHIP BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT HE CAN DO. HE FEELS THAT HE NEEDS A BROAD FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO MOVE FORWARD. THAT IS WHY HE WANTS HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT KNOWS THAT HE WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME SURVIVING IF HE WENT ALONE TO AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

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2. DAYAN SUGGESTED THAT SADAT MIGHT GO FIRST, WITH THE OTHER ARABS FOLLOWING. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK WERE FIRST ESTAB-LISHED. THAT IS WHY THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS SO IMPORTANT. DAYAN ASKED IF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE ENOUGH TO PERMIT SADAT TO MOVE FORWARD OR WOULD THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF JORDAN AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE

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BE REQUIRED. THE SECRETARY SAID THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE REQUIRED BUT THE PRESENCE OF JORDAN

WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE NECESSARY. THE SECRETARY NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK ACCEPTABLE TO JORDAN.

3. DURING COURSE OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, ATHERTON REVERTED TO POINT DAYAN HAD MADE DURING PRE-LUNCH MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WHICH SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT WANT TO SHIFT EMPHASIS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FROM TRYING TO COMPLETE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO QUESTION OF WHERE, WHEN AND HOW POLITICAL COMMITTEE COULD BE RECONVENED BECAUSE OF THE ASYMMETRY PROBLEM DAYAN HAD CITED. ATHERTON EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP FOCUS ON COMPLETION OF DECLARATION; IT HAS ASSUMED SIGNIFICANCE IN PUBLIC OPINION AS FOCUS FOR ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS AND AS A TEST OF WHETHER SOMETHING CONCRETE COULD BE ACHIEVED AS RESULT OF NEW PHASE IN THE PEACE PROCESS FLOWING FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE. VANCE

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